

The open pasture-like mountain summits, covered with herbs and some low trees, contrasted strongly with the rocky barren ridges of the northern Appalachians, and spruces and firs (*Abies Fraseri*) hardly appear under 5,000 feet altitude.

MARSHALL A. HOWE,
Secretary pro tem.

OF INTEREST TO TEACHERS

HIGH SCHOOL BOTANY. — It has been suggested that a page of special interest to high school teachers be added to TORREYA. Many of the members are teachers, and there is now no recognized botanical journal interested in high school botany. Few teachers are satisfied with the work they are now doing, and the discussion that such a page should provoke would enable us to come nearer the answers to the following questions :

1. Why can so few teachers defend the high school courses they are now giving ?

2. Does the present dissatisfaction felt by the teachers indicate that the work is poor ?

3. Is the statement that pupils dislike botany (and zoölogy) true? If so, how do you account for it in the case of botany?

4. Why do so few pupils offer botany for college entrance?

5. Should botany be more closely related to the other science subjects, making a continuous four year course in science (as in Latin, English, and Mathematics in our best high schools)?

6. Why does not the study of botany more often create a lasting interest? Would this be secured by more emphasis on morphology (including classification)?

7. Should the physiological work be more or less quantitative? If qualitative only, how can correct ideas as to time, amount, etc., be assured?

Botany, both as a pure science and as a practical science, has never held a higher place. If we, as teachers, cannot successfully deal with it in our high school classes, there must be something fundamentally wrong. What is it? Is the aim unformu-

lated? Are our methods at fault? Is botany placed too early in the high school curriculum? Do the botanists know where the difficulty lies? Can we teachers find out? Send in your criticisms — favorable and unfavorable. Give us any suggestions as to subject-matter and its arrangement, methods, and that *bête noir*, note-books.

The sixth and seventh questions will be discussed in the April number. Other questions will be taken up in the following numbers if sufficient interest is manifested in this new departure of TORREYA.

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NEWS ITEMS

Dr. Carlton C. Curtis has been promoted from instructor in botany to adjunct professor of botany in Columbia University.

Dr. H. L. Shantz of the University of Missouri has been appointed professor of botany in the State University of Louisiana.

A Transvaal Biological Society has been formed at Pretoria to promote the discussion and investigation of biological problems.

Mr. H. R. Fulton of the Louisiana Experiment Station has accepted a position in the department of botany at the Pennsylvania State College.

Mr. W. W. Eggleston, who is working upon the North American thorns, has been assigned a research scholarship for two months in the New York Botanical Garden.

It is reported that Dr. Forrest Shreve, associate professor of botany in the Woman's College of Baltimore, has accepted an appointment on the staff of the Desert Botanical Laboratory of the Carnegie Institution at Tucson, Arizona.

The January number of the Bulletin of the Torrey Botanical Club was made a memorial of Professor Lucien Marcus Underwood. The longer contributions are by Dr. C. C. Curtis, Dr. M. A. Howe, Dr. J. H. Barnhart and Prof. N. L. Britton.

"The Guide to Nature and to Nature Literature" is the title of a new magazine which is announced to begin publication this